



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653
mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

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HEAVY BOAT TRAFFIC EXPECTED FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND

DES MOINES – The July 4 holiday is the busiest boating weekend of the year in Iowa and with the recent rain over much of the state, boaters using rivers and reservoirs should keep an eye out for hazards floating just below the surface.

“We want people to enjoy the water and the outdoors, but we also want them to be safe,” said Rod Slings, recreation safety programs supervisor with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “When you combine hot weather, high water, swift currents and debris, that increases the chances that someone can get into trouble.”

The cloudy, murky water will hide debris washed into rivers and reservoirs. These hazards are hidden by the stained water and can pose risks to water skiers and tubers pulled behind boats.

“Speed and water conditions will be the main issues for boaters in rivers and reservoirs. Slow down, avoid alcohol and keep an eye out for floating debris,” Slings said. “There will be a lot of boaters out this weekend, and one way for everyone to have a safe holiday is to practice defensive boating and have patience.”

Boaters should go through their boat checking safety equipment, including life jackets, in their driveway before heading to the water. Check boat and trailer lights, the fire extinguisher and throwable life preserver, if required. When arriving to the ramp, using the staging area to get the boat ready to launch. Don’t tie up the ramp.

“Put the life jacket on because it probably won’t save your life unless you wear it,” Slings said.

For more information, contact Slings at 515-281-8652.

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HEAVY RAINS AFFECTING STATE PARKS

DES MOINES – Heavy rainfall in north-central Iowa has caused flooding that is affecting facilities in three state parks. On Wednesday afternoon, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will close George Wyth State Park because of rising water levels.

Floodwaters also closed Canyon Road and Lower Ledges Road at Ledges State Park, but the campground and picnic facilities remain open and usable.

At Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, the entire trail system is closed due to wet conditions, but the trail south of county road D46 is closed due to flooding from the Des Moines River. The DNR expects the flooded portion of the south trail to be closed for several weeks.

“We are hopeful to reopen some of these facilities, but everything is dependent on the weather,” said Kevin Szcodronski, chief of the state parks bureau.

The DNR will be posting park information and flood closures on the Internet at www.iowadnr.com. Click on State Parks Flooding Updates.

As with any busy weekend, park users are encouraged to call the park before heading out to check on campsite availability and on park conditions. Many of the more popular campgrounds will be filling early. Campers who want to spend the holiday in a park but cannot arrive early should be flexible and consider one of the under utilized parks.

For more information, contact Szcodronski at 515-281-8674.

###

[Hold this story until Thursday]

LONG, HOT (AND ITCHY) SUMMER

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Halfway through the clearing, I knew it was too late. My low cut 'running' socks offered little protection against the weeds grabbing at my ankles. Even though I showered when I got home, I would pay for my short cut back from the Coralville Reservoir. The next day, the itching began. By the second day, the telltale blemishes and blisters appeared.

Poison ivy? There might have been some in there. It could have been wild parsnip or some other plant that seems to pick on me whenever I offer up exposed skin. Whatever the culprit, I had dropped my guard. And with the 4th of July weekend upon us, I'm betting lots of you will join me with a rash, bite, sting, burn or blisters brought on by outdoor Iowa's 'summer maladies.'

Though mosquitoes and ticks have shouldered a big share of the load with the very real threat of West Nile virus and Lyme's disease in the last few years, poison ivy clobbers the competition in terms of sheer numbers. One Internet source cites 25 to 40 million of us who require medical attention. Another claims 85 percent of Americans are susceptible. The old summer camp refrain, 'leaves of three, let it be' is easy to remember: hard to follow.

The irritating chemical, 'urushiol,' can be found in the sap, in leaves, stems, vines--any part of the plant. You don't even have to touch it. Pet the dog or put on clothes that had contact...or just stand downwind as some one burns the stuff...and you might break out. I've had all three 'get' me. Once exposed, though, wash it off! Rinsing the area gives the urushiol less time and less skin to do its stuff. By the time the rash shows up, usually within a day, it is too late. By that time, you *won't* spread it by scratching and then touching another part of your body. Nor will the disgusting ooze from the resulting blisters spread it. That spread comes, though, as skin with less or later contact during the *original* exposure develops the telltale rash. The urushiol might be under fingernails, on tools you were holding or clothes worn during exposure. It can remain 'active' for a year or more, depending on conditions.

Treatments vary from over the counter creams and topical anti-inflammatory products to prescription lotions and oral products for more severe cases. Increased attention to 'The Itch' has spawned a variety of conventional and homeopathic treatments; ranging from treated towelettes to jewelweed soap. Just typing in 'poison ivy' yielded 44 Internet websites. (As always, be careful online. One site offered the 1992 Drew Barrymore movie of the same name.)

I've found the best 'treatment' is prevention. Having gotten poison ivy in every month of the year by the time I was 13 or so, I finally try to avoid the 'leaves of three.' I also start swallowing medication in March and continue through the summer. And my breakouts have been minimal; compared to my most recent severe case; a few years ago (another short cut taken), when my shins and swollen ankles resembled raw meat more than functioning limbs, convinced me that I needed to take better care of my epidermis.

Maybe you are one of the lucky ones who don't react to contact with the offending weeds. There are still ticks, mosquitoes and all sorts of hungry insects lying in wait; ready to make you pay for your outdoor fun. "Mosquitoes are attracted to scent; to carbon dioxide," explains Sarah Brend, epidemiologist with the Iowa Department of Health. "When humans breathe, they exhale carbon dioxide." Brend sees a typical year for mosquitoes, thus far. She also notes this week's heavy rains across the state will spell increased 'habitat' for hatching mosquitoes in the coming days. To avoid them? "Wear a repellent with 'deet.' That's your best protection," advises Brend. "Also, remember that dusk and dawn are prime mosquito hours."

In recent years, of course, the threat of West Nile Virus has raised mosquitoes from nuisance to threat. In 2004, 23 cases were reported in Iowa. This year, Brend says there have been no cases reported. "It's still early, though," she cautions. "The peak is about the second week in September for disease-carrying mosquitoes."

Ticks, too, cause concern. Your best bet to avoid the hard-shelled little crawlers is to check yourself (and pets) after walks through tall grass or wooded areas. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked into hiking boots help shed them, too.

Of course, you could play it safe. Just lie on the beach, away from the itchy leaves, away from the offending bugs. Of course, then the *sun* will get you. As with the others, the best course of action is to ward off trouble ahead of time. A decent sun block and the common sense to come in before you are medium rare keep sunburn risk at bay.

It's not terribly complicated. Know when you are going to be outside. Minimize your exposure to summer's itches and burns, and then take care of them right away when you cross the proverbial line.

###

LITTLE SIOUX RIVER SHINES AFTER WEEKLONG RIVER CLEANUP

CHEROKEE — The last of roughly 200 volunteers went home muddy, tired and proud last weekend as the third annual Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) came to a close on the Little Sioux River. The weeklong canoe trip and river cleanup held its closing ceremony on June 25 at Spring Lake Park, in Cherokee.

Volunteers pulled a record 124 cubic-yards of trash from the Little Sioux River — enough to fill nearly 23.5 ten-wheel dump trucks. Participants pulled out televisions, an erector set, roughly 50 tires, a lawnmower, a hubcap, three tons of scrap metal and much more. They collected objects sufficient to furnish a house, equip a farm, entertain a party and build a car. Only 600-lbs of the collected garbage could not be recycled.

A spokesperson for the governor offered congratulations at Saturday's closing event. In addition, artist David Williamson – who helped volunteers construct a sculpture from garbage collected last year – spoke about this year's proposed artwork. Volunteers at the Iowa State Fair and Clay County Fair will help Williamson turn much of the collected scrap metal into sculpture.

"I thought it went great this year," said Project AWARE creator, Brian Soenen. "It's an honor to be able to work with the volunteers and have them participate in a project like this."

As in past years, the 2005 edition of Project AWARE invited volunteers to spend as little as a day or as long as a week paddling the river, camping, collecting garbage and learning about natural resources. The program tackled the Little Sioux River between Milford and Cherokee from June 18 to 25.

"It's a lot of fun," said participant Don Propst of Des Moines. "The people are amazing. When you can get people to take a vacation just to pick up trash, that's something."

Organized by two programs within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources – the IOWATER citizen water quality monitoring program and the Keepers of the Land volunteer program – Project AWARE invites volunteers to make a stand for water quality. Project AWARE participants "make a difference, one stretch of river, one piece of trash at a time."

For more information, contact Brandon Harland at 515-281-3150 or by email at brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of June 28, 2005

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19 has been fair for anglers who have endured the recent warm weather. Fishing can be difficult in hot weather. Typically fish will be more active in the morning and evening hours. At the gauging station on **Pool 16** (near Muscatine) the water temperature is 83

degrees and the river pool stage is 10.83 feet and is expected to remain stable over the next several days. In **Pools 16 to 19**, Fishing for channel catfish continues to be good throughout the river with leeches, worms, green worms and stink bait. Anglers continue to catch bluegill in all accessible backwaters on worms, wax worms, and small jigs and bobber rigs. Anglers are catching a few white bass in the tailwaters. Anglers report that the walleye and sauger fishing is fair. Try fishing for walleye and sauger in the tail waters and wing dams with crankbaits and jigs tipped with minnows or leeches. Flathead fishing has been fair on live baits; aggressive fish have also been caught on jigs and crankbaits. Anglers have caught a few northern pike and largemouth bass near Credit Island below **Dam 15**.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Mississippi River levels are preventing the summer lake lowering. The water level drop will resume after the river goes down. The Toolesboro access has not been affected by the Mississippi River level.

Lake Darling (Washington): Fishing has slowed. Either that, or the 100+ degree heat index has been keeping the anglers away.

Lake Geode (Henry): Still a few bluegills on the beds but the majority of the fish have moved to deeper water to avoid the heat. Troll along the edges of the deeper weed beds in the early mornings for some nice bluegills.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Start working the creek channel in the trees for the bluegills as they try to beat the heat. Use tiny jigs or ice fishing jigs tipped with wax worms.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Walleyes have been biting on Lindy rigs, crankbaits and jigs tipped with a minnow on the mud flats and the underwater islands. Channel catfish have been biting on cut bait around the Bridgeview area. White bass have been hitting on jigs.

Lake Hawthorn (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting top-water lures fished in the mornings. Channel catfish have been biting on cut bait along the rocky shoreline.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs fished in deeper water areas. Largemouth bass have been hitting top-water lures fished in the mornings and evenings.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Bluegills have moved to deeper water but are still being caught while drifting. Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Channel catfish are moving shallow to spawn. These fish are aggressive and can be caught on a variety of baits. Large numbers of 5 to 8-inch bluegills are in the shallows and are usually eager to bite. Largemouth bass have been biting on live and artificial baits around the rocky areas of the lake.

Hannan Lake (Benton): Bluegills in the 6 to 9-inch range are being caught in the shallows. Channel catfish are coming in to spawn and are being taken on chicken liver and night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being caught on a variety of artificial and live baits.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): The channel catfish are in the shallow rocks to spawn and can be caught on a variety of live and dead baits.

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Spawning channel catfish are feeding aggressively on liver and night crawlers. Look for them in the shallow areas of the lake.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Bluegills still remaining in the shallows are being caught on small baits, while spawning catfish are being caught on night crawlers in the shallow rocky areas of the lake.

Union Grove (Tama): Crappies, bluegills and channel catfish are all being caught in the shallows right now. Try minnows or small jigs for the crappies, small worms or waxies for the bluegills, and night crawlers or liver for the catfish.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Fish the rocky areas for spawning channel catfish. They are very aggressive and can be caught on a number of live or natural baits. Some bluegills are still holding shallow are willing to bite.

Kent Park (Johnson): Bluegills and crappies are being caught in the shallows on small baits, while channel catfish are being caught early and late in the day on chicken liver or night crawlers. Many sub-legal sized bass can be caught on a variety of lures as well.

Iowa River (Louisa): Catfishing is fair. Try around the mouths of the feeder creeks as some of them are fed mainly by field tile, will be cooler than the river, and the cool water will be attracting the bait fish. Use cut bait or minnows for bait. Also keep on the lookout for mulberry trees with fruit...catfish love them

Skunk River (Keokuk and Washington): The water levels seem to have leveled off but it looks like the South Skunk is going up near Oskaloosa because of recent rain; that water should be here soon bringing the level back up at least for a while. Weekend catfishing was good using stink baits and cut baits coming into their own with water temps hitting the 80s.

Cedar River (Louisa): Catfishing has been good in the late evening on stink bait but the river is quickly rising with the forecasted crest at about bank full at Conesville around July first.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: Water level in the tailwater at Lansing is 9.95 feet and is forecasted to begin dropping over the next few days. Guttenberg on Monday morning was at 9.47 feet and slowly falling with a temperature of 80 degrees. Bellevue is at 10.17 feet and stable with a slow drop projected and a water temperature of 80 degrees.

Good to excellent white bass fishing is being reported in **Pools 9 to 15**. Fish the tailwater areas below the dams using small white or silver in-line spinners and spinner baits thrown into the current. Small, Shad Rap crankbaits, rattletraps and twister tails can also be effective with white bass. Look for places where minnows are schooled and white bass can often be seen hitting the surface chasing these bait fish. The sand flats and wing dams near Harpers Ferry (**Pool 10**) have provided excellent white bass fishing.

A few walleyes are being caught in Black Hawk Park (**Pool 9**), near Lynxville (**Pool 10**), the ends of the sloughs around Prairie du Chien (**Pool 10**), and off the wing dams and side sloughs in **Pools 12 to 15**. Fish the wing dams and side sloughs tight to shore (areas with less current) using crankbaits, willow cats (madtoms), night crawlers or leeches. With the higher water levels, some walleyes have moved into the backwaters to escape the faster current. Also, fish the shallow areas (1 to 4 feet of water) just before

dark using jigs tipped with live baits for hungry walleyes. Fishing the backwater areas can be more difficult, but nice walleyes can be caught this way.

Fishing for freshwater drum has been good to excellent in nearly all flowing water habitats in **Pools 9 to 15**. Use a sliding sinker with a night crawler or jig tipped with a minnow for drum. Good places to fish for freshwater drum include the tailwater areas, side channels, backwater sloughs, wing dams, sand flats, and the main channel border in areas with less current.

Channel catfish are starting to bite on worms, night crawlers, chicken liver, and stink baits fished tight to shore along the rocky shorelines and areas with some current in **Pools 9 to 15**.

A few flathead catfish are being caught in the tailwater areas and logjams in **Pools 12 to 15** using cut baits, live fish and night crawlers.

Smallmouth bass can be found in current areas along natural rocky banks or along rip rap stretches of the river in **Pools 9 to 11**. Use black twister jigs, white or silver spinners, or a variety of crankbaits and pitch the lure as close to the rock as possible since smallmouth will hide in rocky crevasses.

Largemouth bass fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Anglers are using a variety of traditional bass lures including soft plastics, crankbaits, spinner baits, top-water lures and jigs fished in the quiet pockets or backwater areas along the rocks and woody or vegetated areas. Largemouth bass fishing around Harpers Ferry (**Pool 10**) has been especially good using crank and spinner baits along the rocky shorelines.

Bluegill fishing is improving in **Pools 9 to 11**. Fish are being taken around snags or brush in 6 feet of water with a slight current. Shallow tailwater areas just outside of the main current are also good for bluegills. In **Pool 10**, fish for bluegills along the weed lines and up the spillway near Harpers Ferry, the Sny Magill area, Norwegian Lake and Methodist Lake using a piece of night crawler fished near the bottom in 1 to 5 feet of water. Desoto Bay (**Pool 9**) and Black Hawk Park (Harpers Ferry area in **Pool 10**) have also produced some nice numbers of bluegills. Anglers are using wax worms or a piece of garden worm fished next to the rocks.

A few crappies are being caught in **Pools 9 to 11** in deepwater areas with little or no current. Look for woody debris and suspend a night crawler, minnow or jig under a bobber in 1 to 7 feet of water. Crappie numbers and size are excellent this year.

Northern pike can be found in the backwater areas in **Pools 9 to 11** using spoons, spinner baits and shallow-running crankbaits. Look for areas with some vegetation and, as water temperatures continue to increase throughout the summer, expect pike to congregate near the mouths of cold-water tributary streams or springs that flow into the Mississippi River.

Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers: Fishing is poor due to recent rains which have flooded some of their tributary streams.

Upper Iowa River: Smallmouth bass fishing is good on bright-colored jigs. The Upper Iowa only rose slightly from the previous weekend's rains; however, fishing may be adversely affected if the watershed is inundated with additional rains later this week.

Maquoketa River (Delaware and Jones): Fishing for channel catfish is good using minnows, night crawlers or chicken liver. Smallmouth bass are biting on crankbaits in the catch-and-release area below the Lake Delhi Dam.

Casey Lake (Tama): Anglers are catching bluegills from boats by drifting a small piece of worm further out into the lake.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegill fishing is good on a piece of night crawler fished under a bobber. Largemouth bass fishing is good. A few crappies are also being caught.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegill fishing is fair to good on worms fished under a slip bobber. Largemouth bass are hitting on top-water lures. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and cut baits.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Fishing for channel catfish is good using chicken liver or prepared baits. Largemouth bass fishing is good using crankbaits or plastic worms.

Marten's Lake [Sweet Marsh] (Bremer): Largemouth bass are biting on spinner baits or plastic worms fished along the weed lines. Marten's Lake consistently produces some of the largest bass caught in the area. Boaters are reminded to thoroughly clean their boats, live wells and trailers after fishing Marten's to help prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Anglers are catching bluegills using a piece of worm or wax worm fished under a bobber.

Turkey River (Clayton): The Turkey River at Big Spring Hatchery northwest of Elkader will provide excellent fishing as the river temperatures increase. From April through early June, trout stocked at Big Spring can spread out several miles upstream or downstream of the hatchery making them somewhat more challenging to catch. As the water temperature in the Turkey River increases in late June, trout become more concentrated near the cold-water spring outlets or below other remote springs that flow into the river. Generally speaking, trout will be concentrated for about a half mile below the hatchery during the hotter summer months. Combine concentrated trout numbers with a stream being stocked three times per week, and you get—great fishing! Also, don't forget that the Turkey River is stocked on Saturdays all summer long and provides great fishing opportunities for the weekend anglers. When the Turkey is a little muddy, live or artificial-scented bait works best, but as the river clears artificial lures become just as effective on trout.

Trout Streams: As we move into late June and early July, the marginal cold-water trout streams (Bear, Brush, Buck, Mink, Otter, Paint, Patterson, Silver, Spring, South Cedar, Swiss Valley, Turtle, Wapsi, and West Canoe) are dropped from the regular stocking regime and do not get stocked until cooler temperatures return in September. However, trout can still be caught in most of these streams by anglers interested in giving them a try. Of those streams, higher densities of trout can be found on Otter and Paint throughout the summer months. While some of the marginal streams are dropped from the regular stocking regimen during the hot summer months, stockings increase on other streams. During the summer months, trout stockings on Grannis and Glovers will occur twice per week with one stocking announced and a second stocking unannounced on each area. Look for more information on Grannis and Glovers in next week's Fishing Report. Bloody Run and Sny Magill are also stocked more frequently from June through August. Overall, trout fishing and stream conditions are good. For current trout stocking information, contact the Iowa DNR at 563-927-5736 or go on-line at www.iowadnr.com and check the fisheries web pages to view the 2005 stocking calendar.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair. Anglers are catching the bigger fish trolling weed lines at night and in the basin during the day. If numbers is what you are after, drifting or trolling live bait presentations is the way to go. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Use plastic worms around docks. Muskie fishing is good. Anglers are catching fish along the Angler's Bay weed line and the south weed line.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Largemouth bass fishing is good around docks using plastic worms. Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair around the rock points: try throwing jigs of various sizes. Bluegill fishing is good. Most fish are showing up around docks and weed lines. Try small garden worms or leeches tipped on small jigs under a float. A few yellow perch are being caught while fishing for bluegills. A few walleyes are being caught around some of the deeper rock piles.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass fishing has been good using top-water baits and plastic worms. Bluegills are being caught using small jigs tipped with worms.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Fishing for channel catfish is good.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Channel catfish fishing is good using a variety of baits. A few walleye are being caught on leeches but fishing is slow. Remember the 15-inch minimum length limit. Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers all over the lake.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Channel catfish fishing is good using leeches, night crawlers and minnows. Walleye fishing is fair trolling crankbaits.

North Twin Lake (Calhoun): Bluegill and channel catfish fishing is good.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Webster County received heavy rains over the weekend and fishing conditions may change from the current report. Bluegills have finished spawning. Bass have been caught on a variety of lures close to shore. The best fishing set up is a small hook, live bait and a slip bobber.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, minnows and chicken liver. Bullheads are hitting on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Yellow bass have been difficult to locate, in any numbers, since they moved out of the spawning areas.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Heavy rainfall in the area has created high water and turbid conditions in the lake. Crappie fishing should improve once water clarity starts to improve.

Lake Cornelia (Wright): Bullhead fishing is good off the jetty or any wind blown shoreline. Use night crawlers fished on the bottom. Cornelia has an excellent channel catfish population. Chicken liver, stink baits and night crawlers fished on the wind blow shorelines are the best techniques.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Three Mile (Union): Walleye can be caught on leeches and night crawlers from the steep drop-offs near the big points and on the sides of the mounds. Channel catfish

can be caught from the riprap and rock piles. Bluegills and crappies can be caught from the tops of the brush piles or the outside of the weed line.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Channel catfish can be caught using liver in the riprap areas.

Little River (Decatur): Channel catfish can be caught using liver from rocks. Walleye fishing is good using leeches and night crawlers around the big points and steep drop-offs.

Criss Cove (Madison): Some nice bluegill can be caught with night crawlers from the outside of the cattails.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is fair in 6 to 8 feet of water using a small jig or minnow and bobber around structure. Largemouth bass fishing is good using plastic baits with a slow retrieve. Channel catfish are being caught using liver and stink bait early in morning and late evening.

Cold Springs (Cass): Channel catfish are being caught using liver. Crappie fishing is fair around sunken trees. Bluegills are being caught with small jigs around structure.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is good using minnows and liver on Boy Scout Island and west shore. Walleyes are being caught along west shore in evening drifting night crawlers and trolling crankbaits.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 7 to 8-inch crappies drifting jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught using liver early in morning. Bluegills have moved off spawning areas but are still being caught around structure.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Channel catfishing is good using liver or minnows in the evening. A few bluegills are being caught drifting jigs tipped with worms.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair drifting a jig tipped with night crawler. Largemouth bass fishing is good using spinner baits. Catfish is fair using liver.

Littlefield (Audubon): Bluegill fishing is fair using small jigs tipped with worms. Crappie fishing has slowed, but some are still being caught using minnows and bobbers. Most crappies are 10 inches in length. Channel catfishing is fair using prepared dip bait and liver.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies can still be caught along rocky shorelines. Channel catfish are being caught in evening using dead minnows or liver. Largemouth bass fishing is fair using crankbaits and plastic worms.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Walleye fishing is fair jigging minnows around brush piles and trolling crankbaits in evening in 6 to 8 feet of water. Bluegills have moved off spawning beds, but are still being caught around structure using night crawlers. Channel catfish are being caught using liver.

Willow (Harrison): Bluegills are being caught using worms. A few catfish are being caught in shallow coves using liver.

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing is good using minnows and jigs. Channel catfish fishing has been good using chicken liver and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair with top-water lures. Bluegill fishing has been fair on worms.

Hickory Grove (Story): Bluegill fishing is good using worms under bobbers. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair using top-water lures, with a few fish up to 19 inches. Channel catfishing has been good using chicken liver.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms. Crappie fishing has been fair to good near and around structure using jigs and minnows, although fish are starting to move into deeper water. Largemouth bass have been biting on top-water lures working shorelines. Channel catfishing is good using worms and/or chicken liver.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good on worms, with some nice-sized fish reported. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using jigs and minnows. The better areas are near the dam and in the east arm of the lake. Anglers also report catching a number of walleye below the 15-inch minimum length limit. Channel catfishing has been slow to fair, but some nice-sized fish are being caught.

Easter (Polk): Crappie fishing for 6 to 8-inch fish has been good using jigs. Bluegill fishing has been good with some nice 8-inch fish reported. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using plastic worms. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using worms and/or chicken liver.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): Crappie and white bass fishing has been good to excellent in various areas, with some 10-inch plus fish reported. White bass fishing below the outlet from Big Creek has been one of the hot spots. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent using stink baits at the outlet from Big Creek Lake, primarily late evening or night.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): White bass and crappie fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows with some nice sized walleye reported caught. Fishing has been good along Cottonwood access downstream from the dam.

Des Moines River (Polk): Crappie and white bass fishing has been fair to good in the Des Moines River below Scott Street and Center Street dams.

Lake Red Rock (Marion): Crappie fishing has been fair with some nice sized fish caught using jig and minnow combinations. The better areas are shallow and warmer, around the outlet from Roberts Creek and in the Whitebreast area. Channel catfishing has been good in the upper reaches of the reservoir off old roadbeds.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): Anglers report white bass and crappie fishing has been fair using jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has also picked up with some nice fish being caught.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good near the outlet using jig and minnow combinations. Channel catfish fishing has been good near the outlet.

Ahquabi (Warren): Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs and minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using plastic worms and spinner lures, although most have been below the minimum length limit. Bluegill and redear fishing has been good with most fish taken on worms near the shoreline. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using traditional baits.

Hooper (Warren): Crappie fishing has been fair using jig and minnow combinations. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using plastic worms and spinner lures. Bluegill fishing has been good.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

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